

Patrick G. Hatcher,
Director, Environmental Molecular Science Institute, The Ohio State University
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EMSI Student Scientists Program

Professor Patrick G. Hatcher, working with numerous EMSI faculty at Ohio State (OSU), has developed a unique outreach program, coordinated by Miss Megan D. Moses, with Columbus Public School (CPS) System through Mr. Scott W. McComb. This program gives CPS eighth and ninth grade classes the chance to be involved in ongoing EMSI research that fosters a better understanding of environmental research activities and encourages students to consider a profession in environmental chemistry. Students are introduced to a broad research question—factors that affect the natural remediation of an important environmental pollutant, phenanthrene—and coached in developing their own hypotheses and experiments to address one aspect of the larger question.

The EMSI Student Scientists Program consists of four stages: **1) Planning and Materials Creation.** Participating teachers and EMSI researchers assemble background information, create supporting material, set boundaries for student experimentation, and design evaluation schemes. **2) Student Protocol Development.** Students are introduced to the problem and coached in design of their own research questions and protocols with meetings between EMSI researchers and student at participating schools and at OSU. **3) Experiment.** EMSI researchers travel to participating schools to assist students in setting up their experiments, and return to aid in sampling and analysis. **4) Data Analysis and Presentation.** Workshops are held at participating schools to work with students on data analysis. Then, students prepare posters and presentations and present them in a school setting. Outstanding student presentations and a poster session are featured at an evening symposium at OSU.

